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4/10/03

PATENT LEE-8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:)
Han-Sen Lee)
Serial No: 09/903,315) GROUP ART UNIT:
) 3634
Filing Date: 7/10/2001) EXAMINER:
Title:) Bruce Allen Lev
MODULARIZED HORIZONTAL BLIND SET)
) Fax: 703-746-3559

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

In a notice of non-compliance mailed on May 12, 2003, the Examiner raised three issues. (1) a status of claims statement where "14" was entered instead of "8"; (2) Designation of "stand or fall"; and (3) the use of numbers in the "stand or fall" explanations. Items (1) is corrected and (3) is modified to the Examiner's preference.

However, for item (2) the Examiner seems to indicate that because the claims fall within two groups, group 1 having claims 2-4 dependent on claim 1 and group 2 having claims 6-8 dependent on claim 5) that these must of necessity stand or fall together.

MPEP section 1206(7) relates to claims groups and indicates that within each group, unless the applicant articulates why the members of the group are independently patentable, "the board shall select a single claim from the group and shall decide the

appeal as to the ground or of rejection on the basis of that claim alone, unless a statement is included that the claims of the group do not stand or fall together and, in the argument section of the brief, applicant explains why the claims of the group are believed to be separately patentable".

The indications of separate patentability are simply stated in the grouping section AND are amended for further emphasis in the argument section of the brief in order that the intent is clear. The description in the groupings section is reduced, but nonetheless emphasized.

Dated: May 26, 2003

Respectfully submitted:



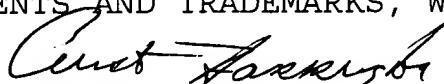
Curt Harrington
Registration Number 31,456
Suite 250
6300 State University Drive
Long Beach, CA 90815
Tel. (562) 594-9784
Fax: (562) 594-4414

Docket: LEE-8

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Curtis L. Harrington